

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

New Claims 17-48 are in this application. Claims 1-16 have been canceled herein. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Office Action indicated an objection to the abstract. The abstract has been amended, and therefore, Applicants respectfully request this objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action indicated an objection to the specification. The appropriate section titles have been added, and therefore, Applicants respectfully request this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 10, 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,178,205 to Cheung, et al.

Claims 1-5, 10, 13, 15 and 16 are cancelled herein. Cancellation of claims 1-5, 10, 13, 15, and 16 should not be construed as an agreement by Applicants with the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 6-9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,178,205 to Cheung, et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,097 to Hu, et al.

Claims 6-9 and 14 are cancelled herein. Cancellation of claims 6-9 and 14 should not be construed as an agreement by Applicants with the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 11 and 12 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled herein.

Applicants have added new independent claims 17, 31, 46, and 47. Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) relied upon by the Examiner do not apply to new independent claims 17, 31, 46, and 47 and that the rejection of claims 17, 31, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) would be improper.

New independent claim 17 includes all the matter and limitations of previous claims 1, 2, and 3. Applicants submit that the portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,205 to Cheung et al. apparently relied on by the Examiner in the Office Action (hereinafter, merely "Cheung") do not disclose the features of claim 3 and therefore do not disclose the features of new claim 17. In particular Applicants submit that the passages of Cheung cited with regard to claim 3 relate to the temporal filtering process of Fig. 2 of Cheung and consequently cannot be considered of relevance to the spatial deblocking filter of claim 3.

New independent claim 31 includes all the matter and limitations of previous claims 1 and 14. Applicants submit that the portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,097 to Hu et al. apparently relied on by the Examiner in the Office Action (hereinafter, merely "Hu") do not disclose the features of claim 14 and therefore do not disclose the features of new claim 31. In particular,

Applicants submit the passages of Hu cited by the Examiner appears to disclose a model of the human visual system and does not in any way teach or suggest user selection.

New independent claim 46 includes all the matter and limitations of previous claims 1, 6, and 9. Applicants submit that Hu does not disclose the features of claim 9 and therefore does not disclose the features of new claim 46.

New independent claim 47 includes all the matter and limitations of previous claims 1, 10, and 11. Applicants note that Claim 11 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New independent claim 47 has been added and includes all of the limitations of the independent base claim 1, intervening claim 10, and claim 11 and therefore, Applicants submit this claim, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that new claims 18-30, 32-45, and 48 are dependent from one of new independent claims 17, 31, 46, or 47, and are therefore, in condition for allowance due to their dependency on new independent claims 17, 31, 46, or 47.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion or portions in the reference or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

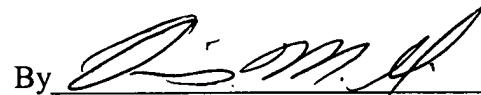
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Please charge any additional fees that may be needed and which is not paid herewith, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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